

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUCAR 02275 271805Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 BIB-01 DODE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 /082 W

----- 077375

R 231150Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2836

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, RO

SUBJECT: CROP OUTLOOK IN ROMANIA

1. HOT WEATHER THAT SET IN THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IN SECOND WEEK OF MAY AFTER THREE WEEKS OF STEADY RAINS HAS BEEN GREETED WITH RELIEF BY WORRIED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS, EMBARRASSED OVER FALLING PRODUCTION RATES IN RECENT YEARS IN WHAT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MAINSTAY OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

2. THE CROP YEAR BEGAN IN OMINOUS FASHION. A MILD AND SUNNY WINTER DEPLETED MOISTURE CONTENT OF SOILS. WORSE THAN THAT, THE NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNTS OF SNOW THAT FELL IN MOST AREAS DEPRIVED THE EARTH OF COVER AND WATER DURING THE THAWING SEASON. BY EARLY APRIL, TALK OF DROUGHT WAS BEING HEARD. THE SPARSE QUANTITIES OF WATER IN IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS SUGGESTED WHAT WAS TO COME. THE BELATED RAINFALL IN APRIL THEREFORE WAS A PROVIDENTIAL EVENT. PREDICTED FOR THE MIDDLE PORTION OF THE MONTH,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUCAR 02275 271805Z

THE RAINS CONTINUED WELL INTO MAY. ACCORDING TO

"ROMANIA LIBERA," AN AVERAGE OF 70 LITERS PER SQUARE METERS OF RAIN HAD FALLEN BY MAY 4, COMPARED TO THE ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 45-50 LITERS PER SQUARE METER. SCATTERED RAINS HAVE CONTINUED SINCE THEN, PARTICULARLY IN MOLDAVIA, WHERE SOIL MOISTURE STILL REACHES ONLY 80 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENTS, THUS NECESSITATING SUPPLEMENTARY WATERING. CONSIDERING THAT MUCH OF THE WHEAT LAND IS TO BE FOUND IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY, THE AUTHORITIES' INSISTENCE THAT THE LEVEL OF MOISTURE AT THE DEPTH OF 80 CENTIMETERS BE GUAGED CAREFULLY IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ALSO SHORT OF DESIRED WATER LEVELS IS DOBROGEA PROVINCE, BUT THE PHENOMENON IS SO COMMON THERE THAT IT HAS BECOME AN ACCEPTED THING.

3. THE PREMATURE ARRIVAL OF SPRING, UNACCOMPANIED BY RAINS, CAUSED THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO CAMPAIGN FOR A PLANTING SEASON ENDING BY MAY 1 IN THE CASE OF CORN- THE COUNTRY'S BELLWETHER CROP. JUSTIFICATION WAS GIVEN IN THE FORM OF SOIL AND AIR TEMPERATURES, WHICH BY APRIL 12 HAD REACHED, IN THE CASE OF SOIL, 14-15 DEGREES CENTIGRADE IN DOBROGEA, BARAGAN, AND SOUTH MOLDAVIA; AND 10-14 DEGREES CENTIGRADE IN OLTENIA AND TRANSYLVANIA; WHILE AIR TEMPERATURES VARIED BETWEEN 13-21 DEGREES CENTIGRADE (IN ROMANIA, OPTIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR PLANTING CORN IS CONSIDERED 8-10 DEGREES CENTIGRADE SOIL TEMPERATURE). THE RAINS IN APRIL CAUSED SOME DIFFICULTY IN MOVING AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, BUT BY THE END OF THE MONTH THE COOPERATIVE SYSTEM WAS ABLE TO REPORT 1.873 MILLION HECTARES PLANTED TO CORN WHILE THE STATE FARM STRUCTURE HAD PLANTED .546 MILLION HECTARES. SINCE IN BOTH CASES THE PLANTED AREAS SURPASS 90PERCENT OF THE LAND ALLOTTED TO CORN, THE MINISTRY EFFORTS CAN BE ADJUDGED A SUCCESS.

4. THE AUTHORITIES HOPE NOW FOR HOT WEATHER TO LAST THROUGH MAY, TO BE FOLLOWED THEN BY LIGHT SHOWERS THROUGH MID JUNE. WITH THE TARGET FOR CORN PRODUCTION THIS YEAR HAVING BEEN SET AT 11.5 MILLION MT (1974 PRODUCTION: 6.9 MILLION MT; RECORD PRODUCTION: 1972: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUCHAR 02275 271805Z

9.8 MILLION MT), EVERYONE CONCERNED IS CONSCIOUS THAT ADVANTAGEOUS TREATMENT FROM NATURE IS NEEDED IF GOALS ARE TO BE MET. VIETS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIELD CROPS, PRODUCTION TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0472
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750520/aaaaarrh.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROP OUTLOOK IN ROMANIA
TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006